

By: Representative J. Mayberry

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

REMEMBERING ANDREA THORN AND PROCLAIMING MARCH 19 AS
ARKANSAS ANGELS DAY.

Subtitle

REMEMBERING ANDREA THORN AND PROCLAIMING
MARCH 19 AS ARKANSAS ANGELS DAY.

WHEREAS, Andrea Thorn, died on December 22, 2013, at the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, when Andrea was 11 years old and shopping with her mother for pageant dresses for her twin sister and her sister, she asked her mother if she could be in a pageant; and

WHEREAS, because Andrea was a young girl with cerebral palsy, her mother, BJ Thorn, was concerned about the emotional implications of entering her daughter in a beauty pageant; and

WHEREAS, Andrea was a determined young girl who persisted in her requests for a pageant; her mother, BJ, began to research and found that there was no local or regional pageant for contestants with special needs; and BJ created the Arkansas Angels Pageant for anyone with special needs, along with the help of Andrea's father and sisters, Johnathan, Bailee Jo, and Lauren Grace Thorn; and

WHEREAS, the first pageant was held on March 19, 2011, and over 100 children were crowned Arkansas Angels that day; and



WHEREAS, Andrea's health began to decline 2 weeks before the pageant and though she was unable to participate in the first pageant, the show went on as planned; and

WHEREAS, though Andrea is no longer living, her legacy lives on through the Arkansas Angels Pageant, with over 1,000 children and adults with special needs crowned to date; and

WHEREAS, the pageant has grown quickly in popularity and now there are Angels Pageants held all over the United States to give children and adults the opportunity to shine; and

WHEREAS, Andrea and her family have inspired so many people around the state, the country, and the world,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives remembers Andrea Thorn and honors her resilient and strong spirit and her legacy in inspiring the Arkansas Angels Pageant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT March 19 is proclaimed Arkansas Angels Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be presented to the family of Ms. Thorn by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.